

**For Immediate Release**  
**Rick Daniels**  
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**760-564-4888**

**Contact:**

**Salton Sea Authority Submits Vision For Sea Restoration**  
*Comments filed with the State offer the most environmental and economic benefits and the complete solution to restore the ailing Sea.*

LA QUINTA, CA (1/16/07) -- The best protection of wildlife, the greatest air and water quality benefits and the best return on investment for taxpayers.

The Salton Sea Authority's (SSA) comments filed Tuesday with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) hailed these and other advantages of its proposed plan to restore the Salton Sea. The documents were submitted by the SSA for inclusion in the final Environmental Impact Report that is being prepared to assist the State of California in selecting a preferred alternative to restore the Salton Sea.

"The Salton Sea Authority plan is the only proposed plan that offers a true restoration of the Sea," said Rick Daniels. "Our current plan preserves the greatest amount of the Sea, provides the greatest amount of total fish and wildlife habitat, includes the most water quality and air quality protections, creates the greatest recreational and economic opportunities and is the only alternative with a local funding component."

The SSA's Restoration Plan and its comprehensive approach to permanently fixing the problems facing the Salton Sea has become the overwhelming favorite of local cities, counties, community groups and a bipartisan group of elected officials in the region that includes Congresswoman Mary Bono and Congressman Bob Filner. To date, 39 community groups, cities, and county governments, representing over 2 million people have endorsed the plan. In addition, more than 5,000 individuals have pledged their support in writing for the SSA's plan.

This week marked the close of the public comment period for the Draft Programmatic EIR before it is finalized for presentation to the State Legislature. The SSA earlier submitted technical comments and questions on the State Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, which had examined an earlier, significantly different version of the Authority's plan.

That submittal included information on key new provisions to the SSA plan that have been added in recent months as a result of input from the environmental community and other stakeholders as well as DWR and the Salton Sea Technical Advisory Committee.



Given the issues at stake, none of the other nine alternative proposals restores the Sea and protects local residents from potentially devastating air quality impacts of a dried out seabed, SSA officials said.

“Our plan meets or exceeds all the technical requirements of the state, and is the only plan to demonstrate the popular and political support in the region necessary for success,” said Gary Wyatt, SSA Board Chairman. “The State and others had indicated their desire to take the best aspects of all the plans and to create one superior hybrid plan. With the improvements we have made, we have done exactly that.”

The Salton Sea Authority – comprised of local stakeholders with the best experience and knowledge of the Sea – has put forward an innovative and flexible plan that is by far the best solution for restoring California’s largest inland body of water and have now demonstrated the feasibility of their vision for a restored Sea.

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